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TURNER-CIA LEAD (TOPS N44)

BY RICHARD PYLE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT CARTERS NOMINEE FOR DIRECTOR OF THE CIA APPEARED TODAY TO HAVE CLEAR SAILING FOR CONFIRMATION, DESPITE MILD OBJECTIONS FROM SOME SENATORS TO HIS REFUSAL TO RESIGN FROM THE NAVY.

ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER, A NAVAL ACADEMY CLASSMATE OF THE PRESIDENT, TOLD THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HE SEES NO CONFLICT BETWEEN HIS MILITARY STATUS AND THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE CHIEF. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS CARTERS DESIRE THAT HE NOT GIVE UP HIS COMMISSION.

TURNER, WHOSE LATEST ASSIGNMENT HAS BEEN COMMANDER OF NATO FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE, ALSO TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT AS CIA DIRECTOR, HE WOULD TRY TO RESTORE THE PUBLIC REPUTATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY THAT HE SAID HAS BEEN DAMAGED BY DISCLOSURES OF IMPROPER ACTIVITIES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, THE 53-YEAR-OLD TURNER SAID, HE WOULD MAKE SURE THAT ALL INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS ARE LAWFUL AND DO NOT VIOLATE THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS, AND THAT PERSONS WHO WORK IN INTELLIGENCE UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM.

WITH PROPER OVERSIGHT AND CONTROL OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, HE SAID, I THINK THE DIFFICULT BALANCE BETWEEN SECRECY AND AN OPEN, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY CAN BE MAINTAINED.

SOME SENATORS HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT TURNERS STATED INTENTION TO RETAIN HIS ADMIRALS STARS, AMONG THEM SENATE MINORITY LEADER HOWARD BAKER, R-TENN., WHO HAD SAID HE FEARED IT COULD DAMAGE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CIA AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY.

BUT TURNER SAID THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR HIS POSITION, NOTING THAT THE CIA, SINCE ITS INCEPTION AFTER WORLD WAR II, HAS HAD 11 MILITARY OFFICERS AS DIRECTOR OR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND NINE OF THESE WERE ON ACTIVE DUTY AT THE TIME.

HAVING THOROUGHLY ENJOYED A CAREER OF 30 YEARS IN THE MILITARY, I AM ANXIOUS NOT TO FORECLOSE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS, TURNER SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY RETURN TO THE NAVY, HIS LOYALTY AS CIA CHIEF WOULD BE TO THAT JOB ALONE, AND STRESSED HIS INTENTION TO KEEP THE AGENCY FREE FROM EXTERNAL PRESSURES.

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